

CLAIM AMENDMENTRECEIVED
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What is claimed is:

Claims 1 to 38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) A reinforcing bar coupler for coupling an overlapped first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a), which are formed a plurality of semi-annular ribs (12) and longitudinal ribs (11), the reinforcing bar coupler comprising:

a base sleeve (2, 2b) forming an outer U shaped container with a flat bottom surface, two flat lateral surface and two rounded corners between said bottom and lateral surfaces and an inner U shaped dual half-cylindrical cavities with a top opening (23) for mounting the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) laid in parallel, an inner surface of the U shaped dual half-cylindrical cavities formed a plurality of semi-annular grooves (26) from end-to-end with same patterns of the semi-annular ribs (12) for fitting the semi-annular ribs (12) and semi-cylindrical ridges (24) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a), and a pair of locking parts (27) along with both edges of lateral walls (25), wherein U shaped dual half-cylindrical cavities are closely arranged to directly contact the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) for tightly binding each other.

a cover sleeve (3, 3b) forming a M shaped dual arch cut-outs on an lower surface having a plurality of semi-annular grooves (32) from end-to-end with same patterns of the semi-annular ribs (12) for fitting the semi-annular ribs (12) and semi-cylindrical ridges (24) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) and a flat top surface (33) at opposite upper surface, wherein the M shaped dual arch cut-outs on an lower surface are closely arranged to directly contact the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) for tightly binding each other, and

a wedge (4, 4b) having gradually decreasing thickness along with the axial direction,

and a pair of locking sections (45) along with both edges (46) for firmly coupling the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) as axially slide advancing into said base sleeve (2, 2b).

40. (previously presented) The reinforcing bar coupler according to claim 39, wherein said locking parts (27) of the base sleeve (2, 2b) are integrally formed a right-triangle shaped edge with inwardly slanted surfaces (29), said locking sections (45) of the wedge (4, 4b) are integrally formed a right-triangle shape groove with outwardly slanted surfaces (46), both slanted surfaces (29, 46) have same slopes for smoothly mating each other and press-bonding the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a).

41. (currently amended) The reinforcing bar coupler according to claim 39, wherein said ~~[[interval of the]]~~ semi-annular grooves (26) of said base sleeve (2, 2b) has arranged same ~~interval~~ ~~[[that]]~~ of the semi-annular ribs (12) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a), and outer surface of said base sleeve (2, 2b) formed multiple of semi-annular ribs (22) and longitudinal ribs (21) same shape as the semi-annular ribs (12) and longitudinal ribs (11) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a).

42. (currently amended) The reinforcing bar coupler according to claim 41, wherein ~~[[an overall length of]]~~ said base sleeve (2, 2b) has an overall length, which is a half interval of the semi-annular ribs shorter than that of said cover sleeve (3, 3b), a set of serrations (33a) formed at one end portion of the flat top surface (33) of the cover sleeve (3, 3b), said wedge (4, 4b) forming a flat bottom surface (43) for contacting with said flat top surface (33) of the cover sleeve (3, 3b), a set of serrations (43a) formed at one end portion of the flat bottom surface (43) of said wedge (4, 4b), more than one groove (44) formed on said flat bottom surface (43) along with the axial direction.

43. (previously presented) The reinforcing bar coupler according to claim 39, wherein said [[an interval of the]] semi-annular grooves (26), and semi-cylindrical ridges (24) of the base sleeve (2, 2b) and the cover sleeve (3, 3b) have interval, which is a half that of the semi-annular ribs (12) of the reinforcing bars (1, 1a).

44. (previously presented) The reinforcing bar coupler according to claim 39, wherein the base sleeve (2b) and the wedge (4b) are produced through elastic process with a uniform thickness of steel plate, said locking parts (27) of the base sleeve (2b) are bent to have a clearance slightly less than a thickness of said locking sections (45) of the wedge (4b) for tightly press-fitting to the clearance, said locking sections (45) of the wedge (4b) formed laterally bent-up and gradually decreased its height along with the axial direction, and a striking head (42) formed at the higher end.

45. (currently amended) A reinforcing bar coupler for coupling an overlapped first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a), which are formed a plurality of semi-annular ribs (12) and longitudinal ribs (11), the reinforcing bar coupler comprising:

a base sleeve (2a) forming an outer **U** shaped container with a flat bottom surface, two flat lateral surface and two rounded corners between said bottom and lateral surfaces and an inner **U** shaped dual half-cylindrical cavities with a top opening (23) for mounting the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) laid in parallel, an inner surface of the **U** shaped dual half-cylindrical cavities formed a plurality of semi-annular grooves (26) from end-to-end with same patterns of the semi-annular ribs (12) for fitting the semi-annular ribs (12) and semi-cylindrical ridges (24) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a), and a pair of locking parts (27) along with both edges of lateral walls (25), wherein **U** shaped dual half-cylindrical cavities are closely arranged to directly contact the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) for tightly binding each other, and

a wedge (4a) having gradually decreasing thickness along with the axial direction, and a pair of locking sections (45) along with both edges (46) for firmly coupling the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) as axially slide advancing into said base sleeve (2a), wherein the wedge (4a) forms a flat bottom surface (43) with a serration (43a), a chamfered edge (41) at a thinner front end and a striking head (42) at the thicker rear end for striking to insert.

46. (previously presented) The reinforcing bar coupler according to claim 45, wherein the base sleeve (2a) and the wedge (4a) are produced through elastic process with a uniform thickness of steel plate, said locking parts (27) of the base sleeve (2a) are bent to have a clearance slightly less than a thickness of said locking sections (45) of the wedge (4a) for tightly press-fitting to the clearance, said locking sections (45) of the wedge (4a) formed laterally bent-up at both edges and gradually decreased its height along with the axial direction, and a striking head (42) formed at the higher rear end.

47. (previously presented) The reinforcing bar coupler according to claim 45, wherein said locking parts (27) of the base sleeve (2a) are integrally formed a right-triangle shape edge with outwardly slanted surfaces (29) at both edges of the lateral walls (25), said locking sections (45) of the wedge (4a) are integrally formed a U-shape hook with inwardly slanted surfaces (46), both slanted surfaces (29, 46) have same slopes for smoothly mating each other and firmly press-bonding the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a), and a bottom surface of the wedge (4a) formed a serration (43a).